



DISCIPLINES OF THE
Holy Spirit

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR CONNECT GROUPS

11 & 12 MARCH 2023

“SOLITUDE”

MARK 1.35-39

Suggestions for Making the Most of your Group Time

1. Begin by reviewing the video of the sermon, preferably before you meet together (see <https://www.brmc.org.sg/services/sermons/>).
2. Read the Scripture passage together, before entering into discussion.
3. Spend time on both question components, namely:
 - a. Comprehension (*Who? What? When? Why? How?*);
 - b. Application / Transformation (*So what? What action should I take? Perspective should I adopt? Value should I uphold? Emotion should I embrace? Habit should I develop? Desire should I nurture? etc*)
4. Discuss as few or as many questions as best fits your group’s current context and present stage in life.
5. Before ending your group session, allocate some time (15-20 min) to pray with and for one another.

Discussion Questions

1. From your review of the sermon and your reading of the Scripture passage, recap the key points of this sermon.

2. Has anyone in your CG ever intentionally taken time to be in solitude, to escape the relentless pursuit of noise, so as to pray and listen to God?

a) Share your experience honestly, both the positive and negative, both what was easy and what was hard. The goal is to allow others in your group to learn from your experience.

b) Did any helpful tips or suggestions for solitude and prayer arise from your discussion? Share with the wider community via <https://padlet.com/bmcpqsg/solitude>.

c) In what way(s) will you be more intentional about practising solitude?

3. Consider the quote from Dietrich Bonhoeffer:

“Let him who cannot be alone beware of community. He will only do harm to himself and to the community...But the reverse is also true: let him who is not in community beware of being alone. [...] If you scorn the fellowship of the brethren, you reject the call of Jesus Christ.”

- a) To which pole of the spectrum are you naturally inclined? (i.e. being in community vs being in solitude).
- b) What do you need to act on, to maintain a healthy balance between these two poles?

4. The Scripture passage reveals that while in Capernaum, Jesus found success and divine favour upon his work of ministry. At the same time, he recognised that such success was not a sure-fire indication that this was the Father’s continued direction for him. Rather, Jesus listened for God’s purpose and vision, through making intentional time for solitude and prayer.

To what extent do you assume that success or accomplishment is an automatic sign of God’s purpose and direction? How will you be more intentional in seeking and listening to God for renewed purpose and vision?

Prayer Items

5. Pray for one another, that we would be empowered by God to live out the specific areas of application and transformation raised during the discussion time. Pray also for any needs that were mentioned.